GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2475
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
CELEBRATION OF PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS
SRICHAND KRIPALANI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on a large scale;

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the amount earmarked for it;

(c) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to organise it; and

(d) if so, the names of the members of the Committee and the criteria of their selection?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

a) Yes.

b) In implementation of a major recommendation of the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora, a three-day convention is being organised by government in New Delhi in partnership with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) from January 9-11, 2003. The 3-day event, proposed to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister, includes plenary sessions on 9th January and in the forenoon of 10th January. Seminars on topics such as Knowledge-based Industries, Science and Technology, Health Care, Ethnic Media and the Diasporic Identity,Education, Financial Services, Voluntary Sector and Development, Culture and Tourism are planned for the afternoon of the second day. The third day is earmarked for interaction with Chief Ministers/State Governments. Cultural programmes will be held on the evenings of 9th and 10th January,2003. The expenditure will be shared on fifty-fifty basis between the government and FICCI subject to a ceiling of Rs. 5.5 crores on the part of the government.

c) Yes. An Organising Committee for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has been constituted by the government.

d) The names of the members of the Organising Committee for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas are attached as annexure-I. Membershave been selected ex-officio to meet functional requirements or on the basis of their experience and knowledge about the Indian Diaspora.

Annexure-I

List of the members of the Organising Committee of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Chairman

Dr. L.M. Singhvi, Member of Parliament

Members

1. Shri R.L. Bhatia, Member of Parliament

2. Shri J.C. Sharma, Secretary (PCD), MEA, Member Secretary

3. Shri. B.K. Agnihotri, Ambassador-at-Large for Non Resident Indians & Persons of Indian Origin, New York

4. Prof. V. S. Ramamurty, Secretary(Science & Technology)

5. Prof. S.K. Tripathi, Secretary(Education)
6. Shri Dhanendra Kumar, Secretary (Culture)

7 Shri S.K. Naik, Secretary (Health)

8. Shri Rajeeva Ratna Shah, Secretary (Information Technology)

9. Shri L.M. Mehta, Secretary (Sports)
10. Shri Pawan Chopra, Secretary (Information &Broadcasting)
11. Shri K. Roy Paul, Secretary (Civil Aviation)
12. Shri R.C.A.Jain, Special Secretary (Home)
13. Shri J. Vasudevan, Chairman India Trade Promotion Organisation
14. Shri Priyadarshi Thakur, AS (FA), Ministry of External Affairs
15. Shri R.S. Gupta, Police Commissioner Delhi,
16. Smt. S. Tripathi, DG, Indian Council for Cultural Relations,
17. Smt. Rathi Vinay Jha, Secretary (Tourism)
18. Shri R. Dayakar, Joint Secretary (NRI), Ministry of External Affairs
19. Shri P. S. Sahai, IFS(Retd)
20. Shri R.S. Lodha, President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI).
21. Shri A. C. Muthaiah, Vice President FICCI
22. Shri Y.K. Modi, Vice President, FICCI
23. Dr. Amit Mitra, Secretary General, FICCI
24. Shri Vivek Bharati, Adviser, FICCI